

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 4240

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINR, DR

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES REQUESTED IN DESANTILLANA-
AXELROD TELCONS

1. RENEE KLANG DE GUZMAN

A. RENEE KLANG DE GUZMAN, WIFE OF PRESIDENT-ELECT ANTONIO GUZMAN, WAS BORN IN 1916 IN VENEZUELA OF A FRENCH FATHER AND BRAZILIAN MOTHER. SHE CAME TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC WITH HER PARENTS WHEN SHE WAS 15 YEARS OLD. SHE IS THE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S SECOND WIFE; THEY WERE MARRIED IN 1939.

B. THE GUZMAN'S ONLY SON IVAN, A BRILLIAN AGRICULTURAL ENGINEER, DIED IN AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT IN 1970 AT THE AGE OF 27. THE LOSS HAD A DEEP EMOTIONAL IMPACT ON THE GUZMANS. THEIR DAUGHTER SONIA, 32, WAS VICE-RECTOR AT THE MADRE Y MAESTRA UNIVERSITY AND IS ON LEAVE AS A PROFESSOR THERE WHERE HER HUSBAND JOSE MARIA HERNANDEZ ALSO TEACHES. THE HERNENDEZES ARE VERY CLOSE TO SONIA'S PARENTS AND WERE ACTIVE IN THE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S CAMPAIGN. BOTH RENEE AND SONIA HAVE A SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE ON DON ANTONIO AND THEY ARE ALMOST ALWAYS AT HIS SIDE.

C. MRS. GUZMAN IS A SLIGHT, WELL-GROOMED PERSON WITH AN EVER-PRESENT ATTRACTIVE SMILE AND A CORDIAL MANNER. SHE IS A SIMPLE AND UNASSUMING PERSON.

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LIKE HER HUSBAND SHE IS VERY FRIENDLY TO AMERICANS.

D. MRS. GUZMAN HAS A BROTHER, ARMAND KLANG, WHO IS AN INFLUENTIAL BUSINESSMAN IN HAITI. THIS MAY PROVE TO BE A USEFUL CONDUIT FOR FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND THE DUVALIER REGIME.

E. THE GUZMANS RECENTLY ACQUIRED A RESIDENCE IN SANTO DOMINGO (THEIR HOME IS IN SANTIAGO), AND MRS. GUZMAN IS

BUSILY WORKING TO PREPARE AND DECORATE IT.

2. ANA ELISA VILLANUEVA DE MAJLUTA

A. THE WIFE OF VICE-PRESIDENT-ELECT JACOBO MAJLUTA, ANA ELISA, IS FROM A WEALTHY FAMILY FROM PUERTO PLATA, PRINCIPAL CITY ON THE DR'S ATLANTIC COAST. HER BROTHERS RUN THE PRINCIPAL FORD DEALERSHIP IN SANTO DOMINGO.

B. MRS. MAJLUTA, WHO IS QUITE OUTSPOKEN, HAS PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE IN HER HUSBAND'S POLITICAL CAREER. THEY MET WHEN JACOBO RAN THE STATE-CONTROLLED CHOCOLATE FACTORY IN PUERTO PLATA (1959-63), AND WERE MARRIED FEBRUARY 17, 1962. SHE HELPED HIM, ALONG WITH HER BROTHER, TO FOUND THE PRD ORGANIZATION IN PUERTO PLATA. SHE ALSO WENT WITH HER HUSBAND INTO EXILE IN THE U.S. FOLLOWING THE OVERTHROW OF PRD PRESIDENT JUAN BOSCH IN SEPTEMBER, 1963, AND AGAIN FROM 1964 TO 1966 AFTER JACOBO HAD RETURNED TO THE DR AND WAS REDEPORTED. SHE WAS AN ACTIVE CAMPAIGNER FOR THE PRD IN ITS ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNS, INCLUDING THE ONE OF THIS YEAR WHICH BROUGHT HER HUSBAND THE VICE-PRESIDENCY.

C. MRS. MAJLUTA SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH.

D. THE MAJLUTAS HAVE ONE DAUGHTER.

3. ROSA MELENDEZ DE PENA GOMEZ

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A. "ROSITA," AS SHE IS KNOWN, AND JOSE FRANCISCO PENA GOMEZ, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRD WERE MARRIED ON SEPT 14, 1975, HER FIRST MARRIAGE AND HIS SECOND. THEY HAVE NO CHILDREN TOGETHER, ALTHOUGH HE HAS FOUR FROM A PREVIOUS MARRIAGE.

B. ROSITA OWNS HER OWN STORE IN A DOWNTOWN SECTION OF SANTO DOMINGO, "LA CASONA," WHICH SELLS ANTIQUE FURNITURE REPRODUCTIONS AND OTHER DECORATIONS. SHE RECENTLY OPENED AN ART GALLERY, AND SHE TEACHES INTERIOR DECORATING AT THE PRESTIGIOUS PEDRO HENRIQUE URENA UNIVERSITY (UNPHY).

C. FROM A FAIRLY WELL-TO-DO FAMILY, SHE STUDIED INTERIOR DECORATING IN MADRID FOR FIVE YEARS AT THE CENTRO ESPANOL DE MADRID AND SPENT A YEAR IN LONDON VISITING MUSEUMS AND STUDYING INTERIOR DECORATING. ROSITA AND PENA MET IN MADRID IN 1972 WHEN HE WAS RETURNING TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FOLLOWING TERMINATION OF HIS STUDIES AT THE SORBONNE IN PARIS.

D. ROSITA IS A QUIET AND SIMPLE PERSON WHO DOES NOT GENERALLY ENTER ACTIVELY IN HER HUSBAND'S POLITICAL CAREER, ALTHOUGH SHE DID CAMPAIGN FOR THE PRD FOR THE MAY 16 ELECTIONS. SHE PREFERS TO FOLLOW HER OWN PURSUITS AND TO PROVIDE A COMFORTABLE DOMESTIC LIFE FOR

HER HUSBAND. THE PENA GOMEZES HAVE A COMFORTABLE APARTMENT
IN THE UPPER MIDDLE CLASS NACO SECTION OF THE CAPITAL.

4. ASELA MERA DE JORGE BLANCO

A. ASELA MERA AND SALVADOR JORGE BLANCO, PRD INTERIM
PRESIDENT AND SENATOR-ELECT FOR THE SANTO DOMINGO NATIONAL
DISTRICT, WERE MARRIED IN 1958 IN SANTIAGO. SHE IS FROM A
WEALTHY, CONSERVATIVE SANTIAGO FAMILY.

B. MRS. JORGE HAS PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE IN HER HUSBAND'S
LEGAL AND POLITICAL CAREER. IN JORGE'S BUSY SANTIAGO LAW
OFFICE, ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL IN THE DR'S SECOND CITY,
SHE HANDLES REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT MATTERS, ALTHOUGH SHE IS
NOT HERSELF A LAWYER. DURING THE PRD'S "PRIMARY CAMPAIGN"
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WHEN HER HUSBAND RAN FOR TME PARTY PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION
AND DURING THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN, SHE PARTICIPATED
ACTIVELY AND WAS ALMOST ALWAYS AT HER HUSBAND'S SIDE.

C. MRS. JORGE HAS BEEN QUITE ACTIVE IN THE AREA OF PRISON
REFORM. SHE WAS PART OF A GROUP OF SANTIAGO WOMEN LAWYERS
AND WIVES OF LAWYERS WHICH PRESSED FOR IMPROVEMENTS
IN THE LOCAL PRISON, AND SHE WAS LATER NAMED BY
PRESIDENT BALAGUER AS A MEMBER OF A NATIONAL PRISON
REFORM COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION'S REPORT, COMPLETED
ABOUT THREE YEARS AGO AND SUBMITTED TO THE PRESIDENT,
WAS NEVER ACTED UPON. MRS. JORGE ALSO HAS AN INTEREST
IN WOMEN'S LEGAL RIGHTS AND IN HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

D. THE JORGE'S HAVE TWO YOUNG CHILDREN, A BOY AND A
GIRL. MRS. JORGE HAD TWO STILL-BIRTHS BEFORE HER SON WAS
BORN IN 1966. SHE IS A DIABETIC.

E. THE JORGES HAVE A COMFORTABLE AND TASTEFULLY DECORATED
HOME IN SANTIAGO.

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